

Message Text

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PAGE 01 QUITO 02238 062100Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00
PA-02 ICA-20 SP-02 /049 W
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R 061950Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY QUITO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7849
INFO AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL

UNCLAS QUITO 2238

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PORS, EC
SUBJECT: STUDENT VIOLENCE DIMINISHES

REF: QUITO 2174

1. STUDENT PROTESTS OVER THE RECENT RAISE IN BUS FARES CONTINUED BUT DIMINISHED APRIL 5, THE THIRD DAY OF DISTURBANCES. FOLLOWING THE RENEWAL OF STUDENT ACTIONS BUS OPERATORS ONCE AGAIN WITHDREW THEIR UNITS, LEAVING THE CITY WITH LITTLE PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION. CHAUFFEURS' FEDERATION SPOKESMEN CLAIMED THAT OVER 40 PERCENT OF THE CITY'S BUSES HAD BEEN DAMAGED.

2. THE DIMINISHING OF STUDENT VIOLENCE APRIL 5 PROBABLY RESULTED FROM TWO FACTORS: HEAVY RAINS IN THE MORNING AND THE FIRMNESS OF THE GOE, WHICH ANNOUNCED THAT STUDENTS ARRESTED FOR VIOLENCE WOULD BE FINED FROM US\$275-\$400 TO COVER HEAVY DAMAGE TO POLICE VEHICLES AND BUSES. UN- SURPRISINGLY, THEIR PARENTS HAVE BEGUN TO PROTEST THE FINES.

3. GIVEN THE APPARENT DETERMINATION OF THE GOE AND THE BUS OPERATORS TO CARRY THE FARE INCREASE THROUGH AND THE PRESENTLY DIMINISHING LEVEL OF VIOLENCE, IT APPEARS THAT THE GOVERNMENT WILL WEATHER THE CURRENT PROBLEMS AND THAT
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THE FARE INCREASE WILL STICK. HOWEVER, STUDENTS AT QUITO'S CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY HAD BUILT BARRICADES AND WERE BURNING TIRES AT 8:30 A.M. TODAY, APRIL 6. IF PROBLEMS DO NOT GET OUT OF HAND THURSDAY AND FRIDAY, THE WEEKEND WILL LIKELY SERVE TO BREAK THE MOMENTUM OF STUDENT ACTIVISTS.
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Message Attributes

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